



ASEAN  
FOUNDATION

# THE ASEAN FOUNDATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

## BACKGROUND

This programme is targeted at corporations interested in investing in the ASEAN market and ASEAN nationals studying at universities in ASEAN and abroad. While there are some corporations already involved in their own internship programmes, the ASEAN Internship Programme for University Students intends to prepare university students in ASEAN for careers in the service sectors like engineering, architecture, nursing, medical, dentistry, and accountancy since ASEAN has agreed to introduce mutual recognition agreements (MRAs). At the same time, placements in industries under the eleven priority sectors of ASEAN which are electronics, e-ASEAN, healthcare, wood-based products, automotive, rubber-based products, textiles and apparels, agro-based products, fisheries, air travel and tourism, will be considered.

At the same time, the ASEAN Internship programme can bring about a sense of belonging, consolidate unity in diversity and enhance deeper mutual understanding among ASEAN Member States about their culture, history, religion and civilisation. The programme can support ASEAN companies in its talent mobility efforts.

## OBJECTIVES

The internship programme of the ASEAN Foundation has the following objectives:

Encouraging a greater number of intra-ASEAN people mobility, particularly among the youths of ASEAN, deepening intra-ASEAN social and cultural understanding through their experience of interning with an ASEAN corporation

Developing ASEAN mind-set and values amongst the youth in ASEAN

Enhancing skills and knowledge that can be leveraged to contribute towards economic development of ASEAN companies and countries.

Deepening employee engagement and job satisfaction of employees in the ASEAN corporations

Greater brand awareness of the ASEAN companies involved

Beneficiaries of this programme will include the youth in ASEAN and the participating host organisations, the corporations. Indirectly, ASEAN Foundation will also benefit. This is because there will be relevant stakeholder involvement particularly among the ASEAN Foundation, universities, businesses and relevant government bodies to promote student mobility in ASEAN.

## OUTCOMES

At least five to ten students from ASEAN Members States annually interning in at least two to three corporations from different industries that are a priority sector of ASEAN for the first year; increasing the numbers of students and corporations, annually by 3 to 5 per cent

A alumni network of students as ambassadors of ASEAN, enhancing mutual understanding and strengthening ties between their home countries and the host countries

Online mentoring support, managed by the ASEAN Foundation bringing together the employees of the host corporations with the interns to support the community building process of ASEAN as well as students mentoring others

Regular promotional communication through social media and other communication platforms to document experiences by the ASEAN Foundation

## PARTNERS

In rolling out this new programme of the ASEAN Foundation, the organisation is looking for partner universities and corporations to collaborate with.

## STRATEGY

The ASEAN Foundation would be seeking internship opportunities as part of its work in establishing and renewing ties with its ASEAN stakeholders. It will manage the programme by:

- a) ascertaining the requirements for the internships with host organisations;
- b) referring the secured internship opportunities and the requirements of host organisations;
- c) keeping a record of the successful placements of students under the scheme.

Host corporations would be required to provide meaningful work opportunities and professional development opportunities and attend a one-day supervisor training as host organisation.

The interns would be expected to attend orientation/debriefing sessions and be responsible for active learning and accomplishing his/her own learning objective. The interns are expected to participate in the alumni network.

### **Alumni Network**

An alumni network among the interns will be set-up to enhance interactions and networking among the interns. The network can help to develop and support young people in their career development as well as the community building process of ASEAN.

The alumni network can draw synergy from the soon to be created alumni network among the scholarship recipients of the ASEAN Foundation.

### **Online mentoring support**

The online mentoring support is meant to encourage individual employees in the corporations to participate in volunteer work and to continue supporting the intern after completing the internship placement. It is meant to encourage the employees and the intern to contribute to giving back to the ASEAN community.

### **Regular Promotional Communications**

Through the ASEAN Foundation's website, social media and other promotional activities, the Foundation will promote the internship programme by featuring the corporations and the interns to showcase the benefits and the contributions of the programme.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Supporters interested to partner with the ASEAN Foundation to implement the programme should [contact secretariat@aseanfoundation.org](mailto:contact.secretariat@aseanfoundation.org). Visit the ASEAN Foundation website at [www.aseanfoundation.org](http://www.aseanfoundation.org) for current information on ASEAN Foundation activities, events, and more.

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